

# Ensuring the quality through community organized shelter reconstruction approach: how far does it work?

Experience from UN-HABITAT's post disaster reconstruction project in Aceh, Indonesia

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## **Abstract**

*Since last decades the community participation process in development activities has been widely recognized as the most effective way in helping the community to fulfilling their basic needs. Not only in the normal situations but also in the emergency settings this approach was massively practiced such as in the post earthquake disaster in Yogyakarta, Central Java and North Sumatra and in the post tsunami disaster in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Indonesia.*

*This paper examines the practice of the community participation process in the post tsunami disaster recovery project in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam conducted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and outlines issues, challenges and constraints faced in the implementation of the approach. This research employed the qualitative research method (participatory action research) and focused on a case study in Geunteng village, in Pidie District, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam.*

*This research found that ensuring the quality of the construction organized by the community in the limited timeframe and in the chaotic post disaster circumstances is the most challenging issue in implementing such the approach. However, this paper argues that this approach has potential to mobilize the social resources available in the community, increase the value of the output, enhance transparency and democracy, empower the community bargaining to the external stakeholders and improve the sensitiveness of the local contexts culturally and socio-economically.*

**Keywords:** Community participation, participatory action research, post disaster reconstruction, local contexts.